OPTIMIZATION OF STOCKS AND WORKLOAD IN THE REPLACEMENT OF DRUGS IN A SEMIAUTOMATIC SYSTEM OF STORAGE AND DISPENSING

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Objetives

To achieve a reduction of the time required for the replacement of drugs in a semiautomatic system of storage, Kardex®.

Material and Methods

Assessment and improvement study of the number of daily drugs to replace in Kardex®.

Assessment phase:
(26 days)

Evaluation of drugs whose real stock was lesser than the minimum preset in Kardex® and whether any of these drugs was involved in any process related to repackaging or division.

Intervention:

To optimize the stocks of all drugs in Kardex®.

Improvement phase:
(26 days)

Following the methodology of the evaluation phase we analyzed the number of drugs to replace and whether they needed any process related to repackaging or division.

Results:

The maximum and minimum stocks of 550 different drugs were optimized.

	Before the intervention	After the intervention
Drugs to replace	1401 (53,8 daily drugs)	1313 (50,4 daily drugs)
Drugs that needed any process related to repackaging or division *	685 (26,4 daily drugs)	575 (22,1 daily drugs)

*This type of drugs takes the most time because they have to be cut, repackaged and bagged.

Time saving was difficult to calculate because it depends on the drug and the stock. It was estimated that the pharmacy auxiliary staff take between 3 and 8 minutes to replace each different drug. Total time saving was between 10.2 and 27,2 daily minutes to replace all drugs.

Conclusions:

-Reviewing the stocks has managed to reduce the number of drugs to replace in Kardex® and therefore it has managed to optimize the replacement time and workload.

-Drugs that must be manipulated their replacement show further reduction which is more time-saving.

-Results show the importance of optimizing the stocks in pharmacy store.